

Cleaning up after an infestation

Follow these clean-up procedures to reduce your risk of getting Hantavirus:

Note that these are recommendations provided by the CDC. Remember that bleach can stain surfaces and that cleaning chemicals can be harmful if misused.

ALWAYS follow labeled instructions.

1. **NEVER** dry sweep or vacuum a mouse infested area. **ALWAYS** use wet cleaning methods.
2. **ALWAYS** wear rubber gloves, long sleeves, protective eye-wear and a dust mask when cleaning. This will help protect you from contamination, and from coming in contact with potentially harmful chemicals.
3. A solution of **9 parts water to 1 part bleach** or a household disinfectant can be used to clean up contaminated areas.
4. Dispose of dead mice by disinfecting with cleaning solution first. Use a tool



to pick up the mouse, place it in a bag and seal it. Place the bag within another bag and seal it. Put the bag in a covered outdoor trash can that is regularly emptied.

5. When you are done cleaning, wash your hands thoroughly with warm water, soap, and dry with paper towels. Launder your clothes normally.



Contact information

Mice are considered a housing issue. Please contact your local municipality about code enforcement. Contact information for local municipalities is listed below for your convenience.

City of Fairview

Main Office
(503) 665-7929

City of Gresham

Main Office
(503) 618-3000

City of Maywood Park

Main Office
(503) 255-9805

City of Portland Code Enforcement

Property Compliance Help Line
503-823-2633

City of Troutdale

Main Office
(503) 665-5175

City of Wood Village

City Hall
(503) 667-6211

Please call **(503) 988-3464**, scan the code, or visit our website

multco.us/health/vector-control-code-enforcement for more information.



Multnomah County Vector Control & Code Enforcement
5235 N Columbia Blvd • Portland, OR 97203

Multnomah County Vector Control
& Code Enforcement

Mice and Hantavirus



What is Hantavirus?

Hantavirus can cause Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) which is an illness that affects the lungs. HPS can make you very sick.

In the U.S. hantavirus is most often carried by deer mice.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of HPS develop within 1 to 5 weeks and are flu-like. They can include fever, headache, shortness of breath, coughing, vomiting and stomach pain.

What spreads Hantavirus?

Deer mice can carry the virus and can be found in Multnomah County.

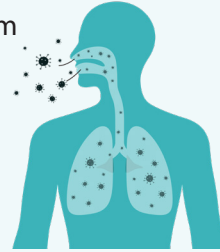
Do all rodents/mice carry Hantavirus?

Other common Oregon rodents such as the Norway rat, roof rat, house mouse and domesticated rats and mice **do not** spread HPS.

If you think you may have been exposed to Hantavirus and become sick, seek medical attention immediately. Be sure to let your health care provider know where you have been and what you were doing.

How Hantavirus is transmitted

You can get Hantavirus from inhaling dried particles of urine, droppings or saliva from infected mice. You can also get it from touching infected mice or their nests.



Entering or cleaning a building that has been closed for a long time can make you sick

Take extra care in buildings that have been closed for a long period of time, such as garages, storage sheds, hunting shacks or anywhere with mouse droppings.

You can get sick by:

- breathing in dust that is contaminated with urine or droppings
- direct contact with an infected mouse
- eating or drinking products contaminated with urine or droppings

How do you recognize an infected mouse?

Hantavirus is primarily carried by deer mice. These mice have large eyes and a bi-colored tail. It can be difficult to tell if a mouse is a deer mouse, and **impossible to tell an infected mouse from one that is not infected**. So consider all mice infected.

How to protect yourself

The best way to protect yourself from Hantavirus is to control mice in and around your home.

You can reduce your risk by following these tips:

Keep your home clean

Clean up spilled food. Keep stored food in sealed containers. Remove trash regularly.

Keep mice out

A mouse can fit through a hole the size of a dime (~3/4 inch). Seal off any openings into your home. You can use a combination of steel pot scrubbers (similar to a coarse steel wool) and spray foam insulation to seal holes.



Keep mice away

Reduce or remove shelter and food sources attractive to mice.

- Keep vegetation and materials at least 18 inches away from your home.
- Keep grass and shrubs cut and thinned.
- Keep wood piles at least 18 inches off the ground and away from your house.

